Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. ***(Previously Presented)*** An adjustable disc spring system comprising:

at least one beveled disc spring axially aligned with an adjustable spacer;

wherein said adjustable spacer is plastically compressible in a substantially axial direction relative to said at least one beveled disc spring to allow an axial adjustment of said adjustable spacer in response to a force placed on said spacer.

2. ***(Original)*** The system of claim 1 wherein said adjustable spacer comprises at least one entrapping flange to receive said at least one beveled disc spring.

3. ***(Original)*** The system of claim 2 wherein said at least one entrapping flange comprises at least one curved surface concave to said at least one beveled of disc spring.

4. ***(Original)*** The system of claim 3 wherein said spacer comprises at least one curved compressible portion between said at least one entrapping flange.

5. ***(Original)*** The system of claim 2 wherein said at least one beveled disc spring comprises an offset for receiving said at least one entrapping flange.

6. ***(Original)*** The system of claim 5 wherein said offset comprises a tapered portion of said at least one beveled disc spring toward said at least one entrapping flange.

7. ***(Original)*** The system of claim 1 wherein said at least one beveled disc spring comprises an axially protruding tip.

8. ***(Original)*** The system of claim 1 wherein said at least one beveled disc spring comprises a conical shaped disc.

9. ***(Original)*** The system of claim 1 wherein said at least one beveled disc spring comprises a Belleville washer.

10. ***(Withdrawn)*** The system of claim 1 wherein said at least one beveled disc spring comprises a straight radial extension for receiving a radially interior force.

11. ***(Withdrawn)*** The system of claim 10 wherein said straight radial extension is substantially parallel to a second straight radial extension of a second beveled disc spring.

12. ***(Withdrawn)*** The system of claim 1 wherein said at least one beveled disc spring further comprises a deflection limiting stop to inhibit an end of said adjustable spacer from moving radially past said deflection limiting stop.

13. ***(Original)*** The system of claim 1 wherein said at least one beveled disc spring comprises a proximal end connected to said adjustable spacer and a distal end adapted to engage a surface.

14. ***(Original)*** The system of claim 13 wherein said distal end is adapted to seal with said surface.

15. ***(Withdrawn)*** The system of claim 1 further comprising a connecting member for connecting said at least one beveled disc spring to a second beveled disc spring wherein a proximal end of said at least one beveled disc spring is connected to said adjustable spacer and a distal end of at least one beveled disc spring is connected to said second beveled disc spring via said connecting member.

16. ***(Previously Presented)*** An adjustable spring system comprising:

a plurality of beveled disc springs axially aligned with an adjustable spacer;

wherein said adjustable spacer is plastically compressible in a substantially axial direction relative to said plurality of beveled disc springs.

17. ***(Canceled)*** ~~The system of claim 15 wherein said adjustable spacer comprises a plurality of entrapping flanger to receive said plurality of beveled disc springs.~~

18. ***(Withdrawn)*** The system of claim 16 further comprising connecting member for connecting at least one beveled disc spring of said plurality of beveled disc springs to a second beveled disc spring of a second plurality of beveled disc springs wherein a proximal end of said at least one beveled disc spring is connected to said adjustable spacer and a distal end of said at least one beveled disc spring opposite said spacer is connected to said second beveled disc spring via said connecting member.

19. ***(Withdrawn)*** The system of claim 18 wherein said connecting member comprises a curved connector having an opening for receiving said at least one beveled disc spring and said second beveled disc spring.

20. ***(Withdrawn)*** The system of claim 18 wherein said connecting member comprises a connecting washer.

21. ***(Withdrawn)*** The system of claim 20 wherein said connecting washer comprises a connecting disc spring having a plurality of receiving ports to receive a plurality of disc springs to operatively connect said plurality of disc springs to each other.

22. ***(Withdrawn)*** The system of claim 21 wherein said plurality of receiving ports are adapted to inhibit movement of said plurality of disc springs in an axial direction.

23. ***(Withdrawn)*** The system of claim 16 wherein at least one beveled disc spring of said plurality of beveled disc springs is connected on a first end to a second beveled disc spring of a second plurality of beveled disc springs via said adjustable spacer and said at least one beveled disc spring is connected on a second end to a third beveled disc spring via a second adjustable spacer.

24. ***(Original)*** The system of claim 16 wherein said plurality of beveled disc springs comprises a plurality of proximal ends connected to said adjustable spacer and a plurality of distal ends adapted to engage a surface.

25. ***(Original)*** The system of claim 24 wherein said plurality of distal ends are adapted to seal with said surface.

26. ***(Withdrawn)*** The system of claim 16 wherein at least one beveled disc spring of said plurality of disc springs is adapted to engage a second beveled disc spring of a second plurality of beveled disc springs.

27. ***(Withdrawn)*** The system of claim 26 wherein said at least one beveled disc spring comprises a lip for receiving said second beveled disc spring.

28. ***(Original)*** The system of claim 16 wherein said plurality of beveled disc springs comprises a plurality of Belleville washers.

29. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method of adjusting a disc spring system comprising:

axially aligning at least one beveled disc spring with an adjustable spacer; and

compressing the adjustable spacer in a substantially axial direction relative to said at least one beveled disc spring to plastically deform the spacer.

30. ***(Original)*** The method of claim 29 further comprising inserting the at least one beveled disc spring into at least one entrapping flange of the adjustable spacer.

31. ***(Original)*** The method of claim 29 wherein the compressing the adjustable spacer comprises placing an axial force on the at least one beveled disc spring

32. ***(Original)*** The method of claim 29 wherein the at least one beveled disc spring comprises at least one Belleville washer.

33. ***(New)*** The system of claim 16 wherein said adjustable spacer comprises a plurality of entrapping flanges to receive said plurality of beveled disc springs.